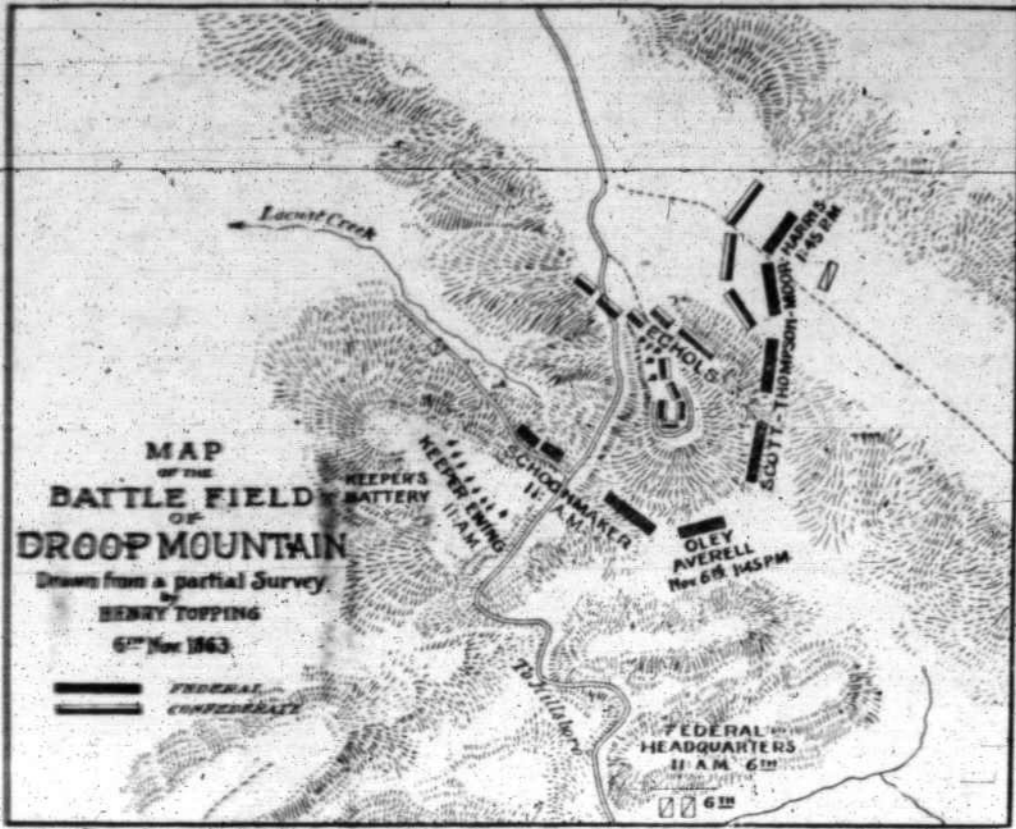


The Pocahontas Times

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MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, OCTOBER 4, 1928

\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE



The Battle of Droop Mountain

By Roy Bird Cook in The West Virginia Review for October

Near the Virginia border, on the West Virginia side, runs the beautiful Greenbrier River. For over a hundred miles it hugs the base of the main Allegheny Mountain on its way to join the New River. In one of the "sinks" in the lower valley is located the historic town of Lewisburg, county seat of Greenbrier county, an important point on the nationally known Midland Trail that reaches out from old Virginia on the east to Ohio and Kentucky on the west. This also marks the junction point of another well known highway, the Seneca Trail, a highway running north and south. Leaving Lewisburg at an altitude of 2,300 feet, it runs northward, gradually rising to the top of a mountain twenty-four miles away, at 3,000 feet, and then slides down and across the Little Levels into Marlinton, the county seat of Pocahontas County, fourteen miles the other side. This mountain is now and has for many years been known as Droop Mountain. Its history is enshrouded in many interesting phases from the time that an ancient lake drained its flow down to the stirring days of the "Civil War" as West Virginians call that fratricidal strife.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought on November 6, 1863, by Federal forces led by General William W. Averell and Confederate forces under General John Echols and Colonel (later General) William L. Jackson. It marked the waning of the Confederacy in West Virginia regions. Then after the close of the war, the scene of the conflict was occupied in peace by men who wore the blue and the Gray. In January, 1927, the Legislature of West Virginia was in session. Among its members were some who saw service in the affair forty years before. One member, John D. Sutton, had participated in the battle of Droop Mountain. A resolution was adopted (No. 8 January 25) reciting the fact that "West Virginia soldiers, both Union and Confederate, had taken part in this battle, and directed that a commission be appointed to mark battle lines, preserve records, and acquire land on the battlefield to be set aside as a State Park as a memorial to the brave men who participated therein.

The result of the labor of the Commission appointed under this authority was that on July 4, 1925, Honorable Howard M. Gore, Governor of West Virginia, formally accepted 111 acres as a part of the State Park system. A notable gathering was present and among the assemblage mingled Federal and Confederate.

The members of both Union and Confederate in the enabling act of the West Virginia Legislature is something that the "drop south" cannot clearly understand. In the Virginia it is common property and has been discussed for years. It is not possible in the narrow confines of an article of this nature to dwell on all the reasons which culminated in the formation of a new state, and led to such a situation as existed at Droop Mountain, McDowell, Second Manassas and many other fields where the brave met the brave.

The division of Virginia in 1863, and the secession of West Virginia, has no parallel in history. The roots of this episode ran back into forty years before the war. The question of slavery was of minor importance. Indeed in all forty-seven counties out of present West Virginia only had an average of two slaves to the square mile. But difference over commerce and education, the origin and habits of citizens, and Virginia's policy of integral improvements had caused to arise years before various schemes for division. At each constitutional convention since men from west of the mountain plead for a "fair deal," the governor alone had come from their number.

Nothing that could be written, however, no matter how fair the historian, would exactly set the proponents of either side. One distinguished historian recounted that Virginia felt a right to secession but objected to secession from secession. Be that as it may, when time came states asunder, about thirty thousand men from the hills of West Virginia took up arms for the Union, and approximately seventy-five hundred, equally as brave, shouldered their muskets and marched to the South. It is our own chapter of national history. The

uncles and brothers from the same families who took opposite sides were our people and we may well be permitted to be a bit proud of both.

Even Margaret Junkin Preston, sister-in-law of "Stonewall" Jackson, a boy from the West Virginia hills, recounted that the most gentlemanly Yankees she met were from West Virginia. A statement two-fold is true, even though a few "real" Yankees" came from this side of the mountains. There it was that out of this back yard strange things came to pass, men from "old Virginia" met in conventions and founded a new state in 1863. Wise, Floyd, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones and Wetcher led military expeditions into West Virginia, with many minor excursions, cutting through Federal lines, and yet in the fall of 1863 only occupied the Greenbrier Valley while our Federal neighbors watched over the headwater region with invidious eyes.

In October, 1863, General B. F. Kelley, commanding the department of West Virginia, looked over his maps and decided that seventy miles of straggling Confederates along the Greenbrier did not look well. He issued orders to Averell, at Beverly and General Scammon at Charleston to start out two expeditions, effect a junction at Lewisburg, and drive the Confederates out, or better still, capture them.

Scammon sent an expedition under General Al N. Duffie to march 110 miles to Lewisburg. At the same time (November 1st) Averell moved out of Beverly with his command, consisting of the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Colonel A. Moore; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Colonel T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel A. Scott; 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel F. W. Thompson; 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Colonel J. H. Oleg; 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Colonel J. N. Schoonmaker; Gilson's Battalion and Batteries B. & G., First West Virginia Light Artillery, Captain J. V. Keiper and C. T. Ewing.

Jackson's command at this time was scattered along the Greenbrier, a company at Glade Hill in Upper Pocahontas County; 20th Virginia Cavalry, Colonel W. W. Arnett, at the site of Marlinton; and Jackson with the main part of the 19th Virginia Cavalry and Lury's Battery at Mill Point. Colonel W. P. Thompson with a detachment of the 19th was absent on the road leading over Cold Knob into the Gauley River region. General John Echols with the main body of troops was at Lewisburg.

By Thursday, the 5th, Jackson had concentrated his forces at Mill Point, and had sent word to Echols who prepared to move to his relief from Lewisburg. Jackson made a stand at Mill Point, forming along Stamping Creek for a mile or more with Lury's Battery on the hill south of Mill Point. Here a skirmish of some note took place, and Jackson soon fell back to the summit of Droop Mountain, followed by Colonel Thompson and his detachment, aided by Lury's Battery. That night with about 250 men the Confederates looked down on the camp fire of the Federals in the "levels" below.

On Friday, the 6th, about 9 A. M., the command under Echols arrived on the mountain, having made twenty-eight miles from Lewisburg in twenty-four hours. Echols, as senior officer, assumed general command, and placed the First Brigade under command of Colonel G. S. Patton, including the 22nd Virginia, Major R. A. Bailey; 23rd Virginia Battalion, Major Wm. Bisswing; 20th Virginia Cavalry, Colonel W. W. Arnett; 16th Virginia (Jenkins') Cavalry, Colonel Milton J. Ferguson; and the Batteries of Chapman and Jackson; Derrick's Battalion; Edgar's Battalion; and the 14th Virginia Cavalry, Colonel J. M. Cochrane.

Averell at once threw out a skirmish line and cleared the way to the foot of the mountain on the Federal side. Shortly after nine the 10th West Virginia Infantry (largely composed of men who were neighbors of the men in the 19th Virginia Cavalry) one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and two pieces of Ewing's Battery and 2nd Ohio Infantry, under Colonel A. Moore, were sent around a back road about six miles. Here they formed and advanced up the

mountain side to attack the Confederate left. This detachment embraced 1,175 men and was opposed by the 22nd Virginia, 23rd Virginia Battalion, Derrick's Battalion, Kessler's Battalion, and 125 dismounted cavalry under Captain J. W. Marshall.

The mountain is divided into an almost straight line by a ridge, and into the dense brush and forest first went Marshall's men in a vain attempt to stem the oncoming Federals by name Col. Thompson and more of the same regiment. The 23rd Battalion entered the woods to support Thompson's left. The Fourteenth Virginia Cavalry soon followed, supported in turn by a detachment of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, under the gallant Captain John K. Thompson, who actually held the line for a short time. But the woods were so thick that no troop movements could be guided, and the Federals drove the Confederate forces back into a cleared section, where in a space of one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven wounded.

About 1:45 Averell decided from the disturbance at the Confederate front, that Moore had flanked the left. The Second, Third, and Eighth West Virginia, dismounted, were moved in the oblique to the right, up the face of the mountains, until their right joined Moore's left. The fire of Ewing's Battery was added to that of Keiper's and the 19th Virginia Cavalry and the 22nd and 23rd Virginia Battalions were driven back on the remaining Confederate forces. Arnett and Cochrane at the center gallantly defended their positions but when it was seen that the left had been turned the wide force fell back under a severe shelling and enfilading fire.

In the meantime a courier had arrived reporting that Duffie with two regiments and a battery had arrived at Big Sewell on route from Charleston to Lewisburg. Echols and Jackson then ordered a retreat in an effort to get to Lewisburg and gain the James River and Kanawha Pike first. By 4:00 o'clock the road from Droop Mountain to Lewisburg was clogged with marching men, cavalry, artillery and wagon trains.

While twelve Confederate units, regiments and battalions were opposed to nine Federal units, regiments, and battalions, the number of men engaged was almost even. The Federal loss was 119 and the Confederates lost 275 killed, wounded and missing. Among the Confederate dead was Major R. A. Bailey, a brave officer of the 22nd Infantry.

The faculty and pupils of the Marlinton Graded School wish to thank the people of the town for their support in the effort to bring the requirements for standardization. A number of books were donated. These were placed in the library and money will be used to buy more books. Library Day of the Marlinton Graded School last Friday was a success. More than \$50 was realized from the sale of tags by the school children.

Baltimore Conference met at Staunton last Wednesday. Among the ministers ordained as elders were Rev. K. D. Swicker and Rev. R. O. Hipes; Rev. Herbert Sheets was ordained as a deacon. All the ministers were returned to their parishes in Pocahontas county, except Hipesville. Rev. A. W. Hinson comes there; Rev. L. S. Shires to Durbin; Rev. G. E. Pope to Greenbank; Rev. S. R. Neel to Marlinton; and Rev. K. T. Harris to Hillsboro. Conference will meet next year in Cumberland.

In the football game between the Hillsboro and Edray District High Schools last Saturday at Hillsboro, the Hillsboro team came out the victor by a score of 21-0. On the same day, Greenbank and White Sulphur Springs played a game at White Sulphur.

A card from Paul H. Price, assistant State Geologist of Morgantown, brings the news that he is at Cornell University, hard at work on his Doctor's degree. Mr. Price spent much time in Pocahontas, preparing a geological report on the county.

Edray District High School a 21-0 victory over Edray last Thursday. It was their fourth straight victory. The prize was of the season.

On Monday night a large bear was seen in the road on a high mountain at Hillsboro.

through Romney my aunt went to him and he put guards around the house to keep stragglers from bothering my folks—and us in the Southern army." Such was the spirit of the men of the two Virginians, and it was in a large measure the spirit of American soldiers.

So, visit Droop Mountain Park. One may yet see traces of crude embankments, the house used as a hospital in which Major Bailey died, and the spot where he bravely attempted to rally his Virginians. A wonderful view down Locust Creek is to be seen and far below to the northeast spreads the Little Levels of Pocahontas County with the village of Hillsboro in the distance. Here may be seen the old Beard home used as a hospital by the Federals and nearby Averell's headquarters. In the summer and early fall the mountain is often bathed in one of the famous "cloud seas" of the Alleghenies, and those who love the mountains, a sight of howling rivers, and a bit of the plains, may travel far and wide and not find a more lovely spot.

Frank LaBar was up from White Sulphur Springs last Friday night to attend Kiwanis. His company has recently bought land on Alvon road near the White for the purpose of establishing a nursery for rhododendron and other native ornamental shrubs. For a demonstration plot they have secured 11 old stage coach stand near the east gate of the grounds of the great resort of White Sulphur Springs. This is a grove of ancient magnificent oaks adjoining the Presbyterian church lots. The LaBar Rhododendron Nurseries, with headquarters at Stroudsburg, Pa., is a pioneer in the artistic industry of supplying native shrubs for the beautification of great American estates. They have plantations in North Carolina and Virginia and now they have come to West Virginia. This editor is not a little envious of the good luck of White Sulphur Springs in securing this fine industry, but heartiest congratulations are extended nevertheless. For fifteen years or more the LaBars have been operating on the Greenbrier, shipping vast quantities of shrubs from our forest lands. The establishment of their plantation in the Valley will mean a continuance of this good business. The shipments from this territory will now go White Sulphur Springs.

Ollie Ewing, aged 40 years, of Prince, met with an unusual and horrible death last Saturday while hunting groundhogs. While attempting to dig a groundhog from under a large stone, the rock became loosened by his efforts and slipped upon him, crushing him and causing instant death. He had left home on Saturday. On Sunday morning the neighbors went to look for him. On Monday they found his dead body, horribly crushed and mangled. His faithful dog was there, waiting for their master to come out from under the stone. The indications were that he had chased a groundhog under the stone and attempted to dig it out. After digging, he had crawled under the stone and it had slipped over on him.

CHURCH NOTES

Marlinton Presbyterian Church

Rev. Kirby V. Bowen, Minister

9:45 a. m. Bible School
10:30 a. m. Rally Day Service
7:30 p. m. Community Service at Methodist Church.
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

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Marlinton Methodist Church

Rev. S. R. Neel, Pastor.

10:15 a. m. Sunday School.
A. S. Overholt, Superintendent

6:15 p. m. Junior Epworth League
6:45 p. m. Senior Epworth League.
11:00 a. m. Preaching Service.
7:30 p. m. Community Service.
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:45 o'clock. Everybody invited to all services.

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Durbin Charge M. E. C. S.

Rev. L. S. Shires, Pastor.

11:00 a. m. Durbin
7:30 p. m. Bartow

—o—

Church of the Nazarene

B. W. Murphy, Pastor

2:30 p. m. Sunday School
7:30 Preaching Service.

Evangelistic services every night next week beginning at 7:45. Come and join us in an effort to bring your friends and neighbors to Christ.

We take this opportunity of thanking the people of Marlinton and vicinity for the hearty welcome given us as the pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in this locality.

Many of the people have invited us into their homes, for which we are thankful, and mean to take advantage of these privileges as soon as opportunity affords us that pleasure. We assure you that we have no other desire than that the Kingdom of God might be built up here and that lost souls might be brought to the feet of the Christ where they can find cleansing and pardon. We are here to prove to all concerned that we do not have a quarrel with any of the churches and that we do not seek the destruction of any church or churches in this locality. We believe that would be unlike the love of the Christ in motive or act, and we are striving to build up His character and love in the hearts of the people. We are here to put our shoulder to the wheel and help push the battle for the lost in our labor of love.

We do not cast any reflection upon the officials of the town of the churches in their efforts to bring others to Christ when we say that there are many souls in Marlinton who need God. We know it is their fault that they have not found God, nevertheless we feel that God has sent us to Marlinton and vicinity to push the battle for the lost and cooperate with any and all who are interested and willing to show their love for lost humanity in their labor.

We feel that some of the evangelists in the past have through their preaching left the wrong impression upon the people, and so we are taking this opportunity to let you know that we mean, through the loving spirit of the Christ to labor with you in the salvation of your friends and neighbors. We want every person to feel free to attend our meetings and make yourselves at home among us in the efforts to bring lost souls to Christ.

Yours in love and labor.
B. W. Murphy, Pastor.

Sunday School attendance at the Methodist Church, 217; at the Presbyterian Church, 165.

Dr. J. E. Flow preached last Sunday at Pisgah, Crabbottom and Monterey in Highland county.

On next Sunday, October 7, Dr. Flow will preach at Baxter Church at Dunmore in the morning at 11 o'clock and in the afternoon at Green bank at 2:30.

The following persons are among those representing the local Masonic and Eastern Star Lodges at the meeting of Grand Lodge in Charleston this week: Mrs. H. C. Solter, Mrs. M. P. Barr, Mrs. J. L. Baxter, Mrs. S. H. Sharp, Mrs. John Pritchard, Mrs. D. W. Williams, Mrs. C. E. Denison, Mrs. Chas. McLaughlin, Miss Geraldine Haupt, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde C. Waugh, J. E. Buckley, Mrs. P. C. Curry, Mrs. Forrest Pritchard, Mrs. B. B. Williams, Mrs. W. P. Moore, Mrs. Elmer Moore, Mrs. H. M. Moore, C. K. Leipsy, W. P. Moore, A. N. Baxter, Paul R. Overholt.

Joe Sharp and Brown Wilfong were in town Tuesday with a cub bear which they caught on Cranberry nearly two weeks ago. This is the fourth bear they have trapped on Cranberry since last April. About two months ago, Mr. Wilfong went to look the pens and he found an old she bear in one of them and two cubs on the outside. He killed one of the cubs and shot at the other as it ran off in the woods. Saturday a week he went to the same trap and had a slightly wounded foot. He brought it in to Joe Sharp's and it is now tame and contented. It eats well and it is getting fat and fine.

The Masonic Grand Lodge meets at Charleston this week. Marlinton Lodge is represented by Neal Baxter, Cass Lodge by S. L. Clark and Hillsboro by Eric Clutter.

On Monday the Cloverleaf farm was sold to Dr. F. T. McClintic for \$44,400.

Wonderful Organization

We wish that all of our radio owners could have been with Mr. Brill when he with about four hundred other dealers visited the largest radio factory in the world last week in Philadelphia. Over eight thousand trained workers turning out *seven* thousand complete sets per day compose the most wonderful organization in the manufacture of this blessing to humanity, the Radio. To all prospects for a radio we wish to say you can't equal in value anywhere near the price the ATWATER KENT RADIO. We have a complete stock and will be delighted to give you a demonstration in your own home.

The Peoples Store & Supply Co.

Dealers for Pocahontas County
Marlinton, West Virginia

C. J. McCARTY, DEAD

On Saturday noon September 29, 1928, C. J. McCarty fell from an apple tree at his residence in Marlinton, and received injuries from which he died the following afternoon. His neck was dislocated. On Monday afternoon, his body was buried in Mt. View Cemetery, the funeral being conducted from the Methodist church by Rev. S. R. Neel and Rev. N. S. Hill, in the presence of a large congregation. The pall bearers were T. S. McNeel, A. H. McFerrin, R. H. McElwee, Ira D. Brill, W. A. Eskridge and Fred Gehauf.

Mr. McCarty was one of our best citizens. In early life he suffered a physical handicap which would have made many a person dependent all his life, but he made his own way, supported his family and accumulated property. He was a man whom the people delighted to honor with public office, and he was faithful in the discharge of his duties. He served a term of six years as clerk of the County Court, and later he was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace.

Columbus Jacob McCarty, a son of the late Elizabeth J. and Samuel A. McCarty, was born near Hillsboro, in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas county, July 10, 1868, and died at Marlinton on September 30, 1928. His age was 60 years, two months and twenty days. In early life he was converted and he became a member of the Missionary Baptist church. He remained a member of that church the greater part of his christian life. Five years ago he changed his church affiliation and he became a member of the Marlinton Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In his religion as in everything else, he was faithful, conscientious and sincere.

On October 16, 1907, he married Miss Margaret C. Hull. To this union three children were born: Erna Adeline, Margie Elizabeth, and Winters Kyle McCarty. Mr. McCarty is survived by his wife and their three children. Of his father's family there remains one sister, Mrs. Frank Thompson, of Plainfield, Vermont; and three brothers, Rev. T. M. McCarty, of Corinth, Preston county; Rev. Samuel E. McCarty, of Fair-plain, Jackson County, and James H. McCarty, North Calais, Vermont.

For the past twenty years Mr. McCarty has lived in Marlinton. He had the respect and esteem of all as a dependable man and neighbor and the world is better for his having lived in it.

COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE

On Friday and Saturday and Sunday the annual Country Life Conference will be held at Hillsboro, commencing Friday night with a community program at the high school. On Saturday afternoon the community scoring program will be held at 2:30 o'clock at the high school. On Saturday night Dr. L. Riggelman will preach at the high school; community singing and community activities for 1298-1929 will be outlined. On Sunday morning Dr. Riggelman will preach at the Methodist Church and will announce the community score.

DEAD

Wellington G. Ruckman died at his home on Knapps Creek on October 1, 1928, aged 71 years, having been born October 24, 1857. The cause of his death was heart disease, and he had been ill for two years or more. On Tuesday afternoon the funeral service was conducted from the Ruckman home on Knapps Creek by Rev. S. R. Neel. Burial in the family graveyard. The deceased was born on the place where he lived and died. He was an agreeable man and a good neighbor and citizen. The deceased is survived by his son, Everett Ruckman, and three daughters, Mrs. Hill of California, Mrs. Pat Hamilton of Kanawha county, and Mrs. Joe Hiner of Knapps Creek. His wife was a Miss Anderson of Bath county, who preceded him to the grave some years ago.

There will be a community meeting at the Slaty Fork school house on Friday night, October 12th, at eight o'clock. The program will consist of stunts, songs and speaking. After the program there will be a pie, cake and candy supper. Come, bring your friend, and enjoy a good evening.

Last Saturday Davis & Elkins College defeated National Naval Academy in football by a score of 12 to 0. One of the stars of the game was Claude Warren of Hillsboro.

1903 1928

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